The President's Daily Brief

25 January 1972

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Top Secret

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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Laotian irregulars recaptured the rest of Skyline
Ridge yesterday, but the Communists remain in a
strong position to strike anywhere in the Long Tieng
area. *(Page 2)*

The Soviet Union and some of its Warsaw Pact allies
may try to inject the issue of Communist China's
role in the Communist world into the Pact summit
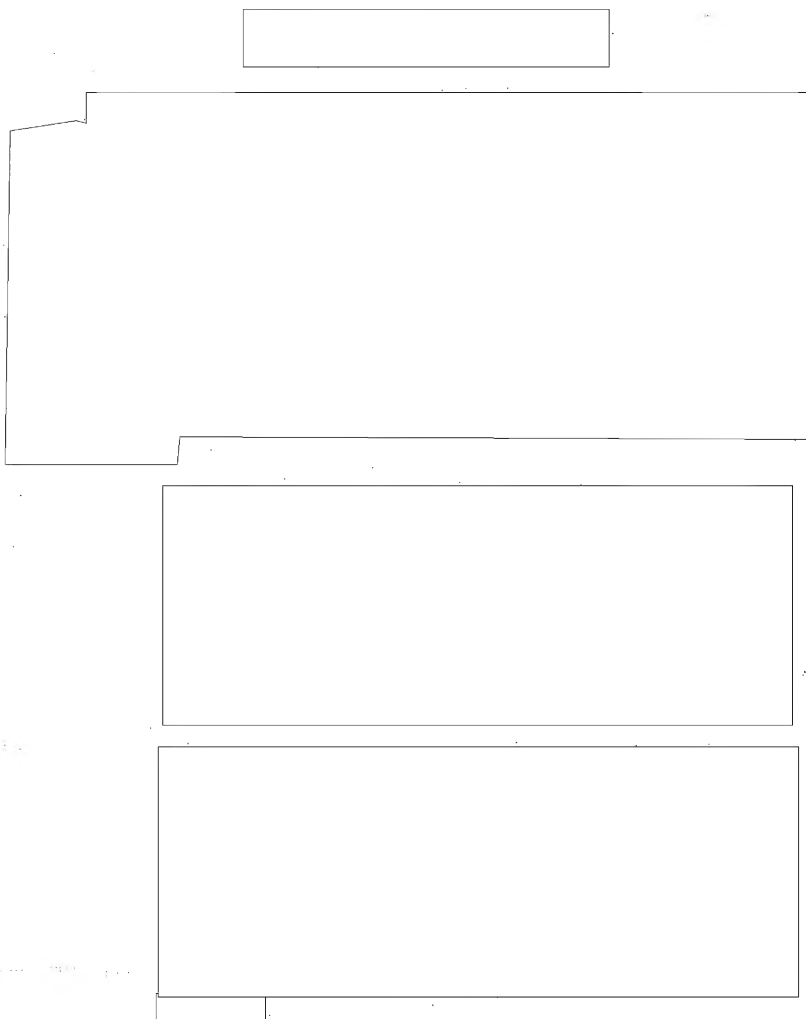meeting that begins today. *(Page 3)*

The Israelis are making it clear they will not toler-
ate an increase in fedayeen attacks based in Syria.
(Page 4)

Soviet   25X1
(Page 5)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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LONG TIENG AREA

Government-held location
Communist-held location
△ Highpoint
0 — 5
Miles

PLAINE
Phou Seo △ DES
JARRES
Ban Na
Muong Pot

Nam

PHOU LONG MAT

Tha Tam Bleung

Ngum

Khang Kho
Sam Thong
Phou Pha Sai

SKYLINE RIDGE
Ridge recaptured by irregulars

Long Tieng
Pha Dong

Nam Pha
Pha Khao

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Phone Sai

Nam Ngum

Ban So

52
Trail
Muong Cho

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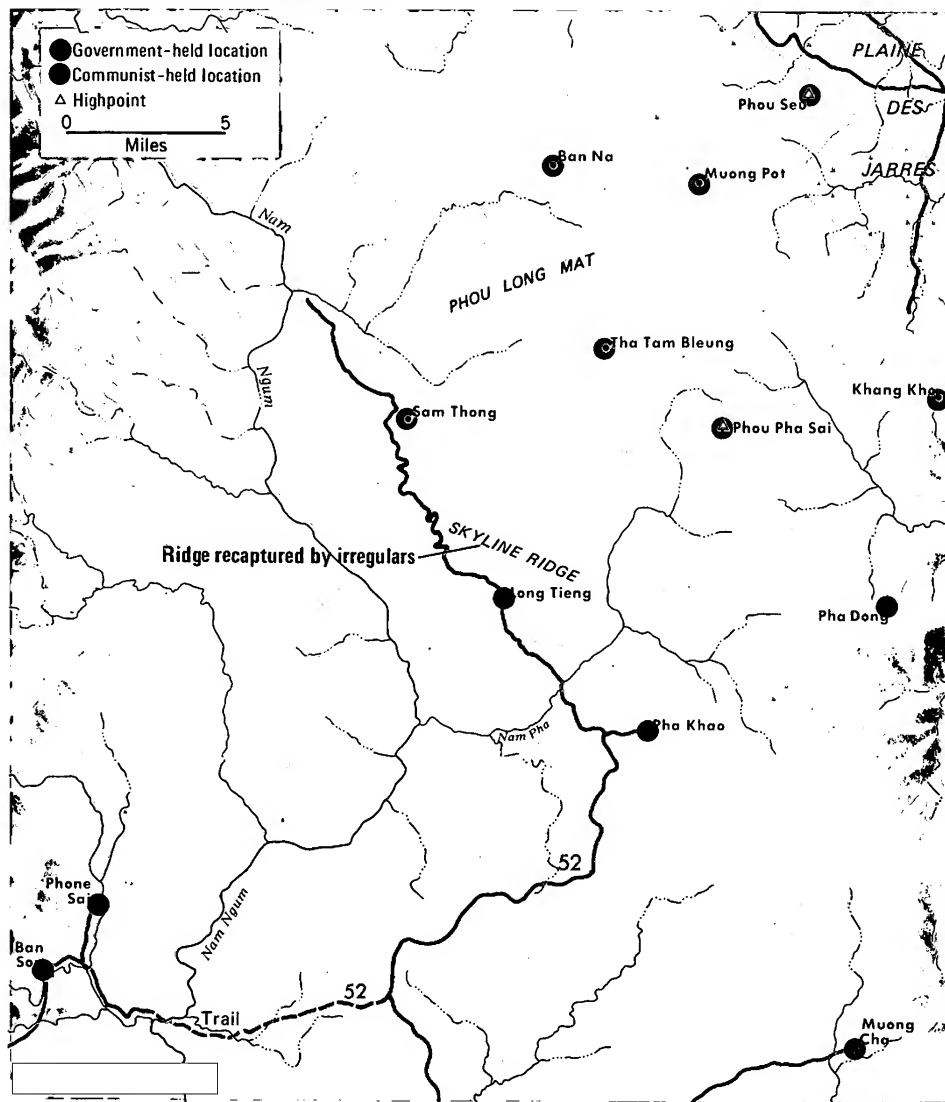
LAOS

Yesterday an irregular unit recaptured, without resistance, the last helicopter landing pad on the eastern end of Skyline Ridge. Most of the government units involved in the week-long struggle for the ridge now have been pulled back into the Long Tieng valley, leaving two battalions holding the ridge. Two fresh irregular battalions moved into Long Tieng yesterday, and additional reinforcements are scheduled to follow in the next few days.

The North Vietnamese decision to abandon the last position suggests that casualties and supply difficulties had finally incapacitated their units. The North Vietnamese apparently did not choose to throw in fresh troops from the six other infantry regiments in the Long Tieng area. Their strategy may have been to tie down and deplete the government's best units--the four irregular battalions that bore most of the fighting suffered over 25 percent casualties--while improving their own lines of communication and shifting men and supplies into position for a new assault. With enemy units now deployed south and west of the valley, new attacks could be directed either at the ridge or against Long Tieng itself.

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WARSAW PACT

On the eve of today's political summit meeting in Prague, several East European states have intensified their propaganda attacks on China. Soviet criticism of the Chinese has, of course, been running at a high level since the Indo-Pakistani conflict and the UN General Assembly session. Polish and East German articles in the past week specifically attack Peking's "splitting activities" in the socialist world and its "diplomatic maneuvers" in the Balkans.

Warsaw and Pankow seem to be fronting for Moscow on this issue, and Bucharest is the unspecified but obvious target. The Romanians, who have been subjected to this kind of performance before, will strongly resist any efforts to push through a resolution condemning Peking and will seek to confine the meeting to questions of European security.

3

MEDITERRANEAN

SEA

Ba'labakk

Beirut

Zahlah

LEBANON

Dumayr

Sidon

Az Zahrani

Rashayya

Mt. Hermon
9232'

Damascus

Nahr al Lītānī

Tyre

SYRIA

Al Qunaytirah

───── Armistice line, 1949 and 1950

Israeli-occupied territory

'Akko

GOLAN
HEIGHTS

ISRAEL

Haifa

Tiberias

Lake
Tiberias

Israeli airstrike

Nazareth

Nahr al Yarmuk

Daraa

Irbid

Janin

East Ghor Canal

Al Mafraq

Nablus

Nahr az Zarqā'

Tel Aviv-
Yafo

WEST BANK

As Salt

Fedayeen
intercepted

Amman

Ashdod

Jericho

Ashqelon

Jerusalem

ISRAEL

JORDAN

Gaza

Dead
Sea

GAZA STRIP

Khan
Yunus

Hebron

STATUTE MILES

0   30

Beersheba

35

Al Karak

36

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ISRAEL-SYRIA

The Israelis are justifying their air strike yesterday against a fedayeen camp north of Daraa in Syria as retaliation for recently increased fedayeen activity in the Golan Heights. They also charge that the character of this activity indicates cooperation between the Syrian Army and the fedayeen, implying that Israeli counteractions may not spare Syrian Army units and bases.

> *The increased terrorism in the Golan Heights area reflects the recent shift of fedayeen operations from Lebanon to other areas along the Israeli border. The shift is the result of Israel's recent raids into Lebanon and its threat to occupy Lebanese territory unless fedayeen activity from there ceased.*

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NOTES

USSR: 25X1

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Vietnam: 25X1

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Egypt: The government yesterday took tougher measures to quell an upsurge of student unrest. Security forces clashed with a small group of rioting students in one of Cairo's main squares and used force to confine demonstrations in other areas of the city. One of the primary causes of this latest upsurge apparently was the arrest of a number of protesters during earlier demonstrations. Another was the government's action in sending the students out one day early on a scheduled two-week recess. The government hopes that the recess and the students' failure to generate any visible local support will cool them down.

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